

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: House Bill 1368

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support

TITLE: Environment – State and Private Wetlands - Improvements

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 1368 establishes a Task Force on residential pier construction to study certain matters and make certain findings and recommendations on matters generally relating to existing laws, regulations, and policies related to residential pier construction and how the laws, regulations, and policies balance the needs of riparian property owners, the general public, and the environment.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or Department) supports HB 1368. The Bill reinforces the State’s Tidal Wetlands protection program by enhancing the public policy objectives established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1970 – the preservation of tidal wetlands and the prevention of their despoliation and destruction. The Department believes that new requirements governing the construction of residential piers are needed, and that these requirements should be developed in concert with a variety of stakeholders, including riparian property owners, recreational interests, representatives of the marine contracting industry, environmental advocates and various resource protection agencies. The Department therefore supports the creation of a statewide taskforce on residential pier construction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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